

Rebecca Meggie Harvey
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LD 1474

Testimony in support of LD 1474 - An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools. I am an educator who supports hundreds of teachers across all of Maine's 16 counties. The teachers that I work with are trying to follow the LD 291 mandate issued in 2001 to incorporate Wabanaki Studies in their teaching, yet until recently, there have not been nearly enough resources to support them. Many teachers have little to no background in Wabanaki history or practices and do not know where to start the teaching of Wabanaki studies. Even as a specialist in science education, I receive more requests for resources that support the teaching of Wabanaki studies than for any other type of resource. The temporary position of the Wabanaki Studies specialist at the Department of Education and Wabanaki advisors contracted by the DoE have already made an enormous difference in teachers' access to the training and resources that they need, and I have witnessed profound changes in my colleagues' teaching as a result. These positions must be made permanent if these changes are to extend beyond a small handful of classes. Thank you for your consideration.